

**SECRET***W/... J Chron***FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE****P. O. Box 2604****Washington, D. C. 20013****MHQ-5090****8 August 1985****MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs****FROM:**  
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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**SUBJECT: Identification of Foreign National Employees with CIA**

1. In the 1979 inspection of FBIS, the Inspector General's report recommended that a "consistent policy needs to be established concerning the notification of foreign national employees of CIA affiliation." In its rebuttal to the IG Report, FBIS management stated that a "uniform policy on informing or not informing foreign national employees that they work for CIA would cause many FBIS managers concern." The FBIS statement went on to state: "It is quite a different situation for a sophisticated associate editor at London Bureau to be aware of such an affiliation than it is for a chauffeur in Bahrain, for example. If implemented, a policy of uniformly informing foreign nationals of their CIA affiliation could cause serious problems in our relations with ambassadors, host governments, and the more sensitive or uneducated FN employees. We would prefer that this requirement be broadened to simply require that we adopt a policy that will be consistent with operational needs. FBIS, as an overt organization, should not be in a position where it needs to make either a formal declaration to all its FN's that it is part of a larger intelligence organization or, on the other hand, be forced to keep it a secret from them." Directorate management concurred in the FBIS position.

2. As many of you will recall, this subject was discussed at a bureau chiefs conference in the spring of 1980. It was decided that bureau chiefs would be left to their own discretion as to how much was to be told to foreign national employees about the CIA affiliation, dependent on local operational conditions. It was noted that it is not a lie to state that foreign national employees are working for the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. It is the belief of many bureau chiefs that foreign national employees, even though they may be told or informally learn of FBIS' affiliation with the Agency, prefer the ability to make "plausible denial" as to their knowledge of FBIS affiliation with CIA.

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3. It is therefore FBIS policy to give bureau chiefs discretion in informing foreign national employees about the CIA affiliation. It is not a secret, of course. At the same time, we do not advertise our affiliation when operating abroad. Bureau chiefs may use their own judgment as to how much they care to impart to a prospective employee, or an employee on duty. It may be quite sufficient to state that the employee will be working with the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, which is administratively connected with a larger intelligence organization, serves all elements of the U.S. foreign affairs community, and receives directives from the National Security Council. In many cases it will be sufficient to state that FBIS collects information from foreign media for the U.S. Government and operates as part of the U.S. mission. If the employee is notified of the CIA connection, he/she should be warned that this is not to be discussed publicly.

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